

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 AID-05
COME-00 AGRE-00 /090 W
-----041439Z 051877 /40

R 012255Z APR 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6915
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USUN NY 396

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, ECON, KS, CS
SUBJECT: VISIT TO COSTA RICA OF FORMER ROK PRIME MINISTER KIM

REF: SEOUL 1130

SUMMARY: VISIT OF FORMER ROK PRIME MINISTER KIM MARCH 29-31
WITH GOCR LEADERS WAS WARM AND CORDIAL. AMONG ISSUES
DISCUSSED WERE ROK PURCHASE OF COSTA RICAN MEAT AND POSSIBLE
JOINT FISHING VENTURE. END SUMMARY.
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1. FORMER ROK PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL AND ENTOURAGE
PAID A BRIEF FRIENDSHIP VISIT TO COSTA RICA MARCH 29-31.
DURING THE 1-DAY PROGRAMMING TIME AVAILABLE, KIM MET WITH
PRESIDENT ODUBER AND FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO, CALLED AT
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, WHERE HE WAS GREETED BY
ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT CARRO AND OTHER DEPUTIES, AND HELD

A BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE. ON THE SYMBOLIC SIDE, KIM DEPOSITED A FLORAL BOUQUET AT THE NATIONAL MONUMENT AND VISITED THE NATIONAL THEATER WHERE HE HEARD THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY PERFORM. IN AN APPARENT SPONTANEOUS GESTURE, KIM REPORTEDLY DONATED \$2,000 TO THE SYMPHONY FOLLOWING THEIR PERFORMANCE.

2. THE VISIT RECEIVED MODERATE PRESS COVERAGE. FEATURED WAS PRESIDENT ODUBER'S PROPOSAL THAT THE ROK AND COSTA RICA DEVELOP A JOINT VENTURE TO EXPLOIT COSTA RICA'S PATRIMONIAL SEA'S FISHERY AND THE POSSIBLE PURCHASE BY THE ROK OF 1 MILLION POUNDS OF COSTA RICAN BEEF. THE PRESS ALSO CARRIED REMARKS MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO STRONGLY CRITICAL OF NORTH KOREA AND PREMIER KIM-IL-SUNG.

3. ACCORDING TO MINISTER LEE OF THE ROK EMBASSY, SOUTH KOREA AGREED TO PURCHASE AN UNSPECIFIED AMOUNT OF VJITA RICAN MEAT IN 1977; BUT NOT NEARLY AS MUCH AS REPORTED. COSTA RICAN BEEF HE NOTED, IS NOT PRICE COMPETITIVE WITH AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND MEAT. PRESIDENT ODUBER LINKED ROK PURCHASE OF BEEF WITH OPENING OF COSTA RICAN EMBASSY IN SEOUL. PRIVATELY, FACIO TOLD KOREANS THAT COSTA RICA DID NOT HAVE FUNDS IN 1977 BUDGET TO OPEN AN EMBASSY IN SEOUL BUT PLANNED TO BUDGET THEM IN 1978.

4. KOREANS WERE SURPRISED BY ODUBER'S RAISING SUBJECT OF A JOINT FISHING VENTURE. ACCORDING TO LEE, KIM HAS RECOMMENDED DIRECTLY TO SEOUL THAT ONE ROK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOVERNMENT AND ONE PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE BE SENT TO COSTA RICA TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES WITH GOCR. (BASIC AGREEMENT ON SUCH A JOINT VENTURE WAS REACHED BETWEEN ROK AND LOCR IN 1975.)

5. COMMENT: KIM VISIT REFLECTED GOOD STATE OF COSTA RICAN-KOREAN RELATIONS, WHICH THE HYPER-ACTIVE KOREAN EMBASSY HERE WORKS AT ASSIDUOUSLY TO MAINTAIN. SOUTH KOREANS WERE MOST PLEASED WITH FACIO'S STRONGLY CONDEMNATORY REMARKS ABOUT DPRK AND KIM-IL-SUNG. THEY WERE ALSO PLEASED TO OBTAIN COSTA RICA'S PLEDGE TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THEM AT UN.

6. COSTA RICANS SEEM A LITTLE MORE HOPEFUL THAN KOREANS ABOUT OBTAINING ANOTHER MEAT MARKET BUT NOT BY MUCH. ODUBER IS REALLY HOLDING OUT CARROT OF A COSTA RICAN EMBASSY IN SEOUL IN RETURN FOR COSTA RICAN MEAT EXPORTS. HOWEVER, EXCEPT FOR SYMBOLIC VALUE, THERE IS LITTLE REASON FOR COSTA RICA TO HAVE A DIPLOMAT IN SEOUL-- AND

BOTH GOVERNMENTS KNOW IT.
KILDAY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANJO01408
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770116-0789
Format: TEL
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770497/aaaadgzx.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e59a8bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SEOUL 1130
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2925421
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO COSTA RICA OF FORMER ROK PRIME MINISTER KIM
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, ECON, KS, CS, (KIM CHONG-PIL)
To: STATE SEOUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e59a8bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009